

Great Britain. Colonial Office. Original Correspondence: West Indies (CO 318): 1699-1830

(HIL – MICL FC LPR .G7C6W4C6)

Document List

[Volume 32](#). Report of the Board of Health on West Indian Stations. Health Statistics: 1799-1803, 1805-7

Frame No.	Date	Document Summary
3		<p>“General Return of the Sick and Wounded in all His Majesty’s Hospitals (General, Garrison and Regimental) throughout the Windward and Leeward Colonies, while under the direction of Dr. Theodore Gordon, Dy Inspector General, from December 1799 to January 1803; specifying the casualties during the whole of that period, also discriminating between what are called healthy and unhealthy Seasons in the West Indies, and shewing a Comparative State of the increase or decrease of Sickness & Mortality in each colony, during either.”</p> <p>Copy. Documents include two tables, organised by colony (Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Eustatia, Dominica, Saints, Trinidad, Martinico, St. Lucia, Tobago, Demarary, Surinam, St. Martins, Curacao, St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. Bartholomews); and “Observations” written by Theo. Gordon, M.D..</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Table shows in numbers for different time periods - Average strength of garrisons, and Casualties in the hospitals differentiated by those admitted, discharged and died.2. “Abstract in which casualties of the European Troops are discriminated from those of the African, & a comprehensive view of the whole afforded” shows numbers for each island, separating data for European and African, for the following,– Average strength of garrisons during the whole period (Dec. 1799-1 Jan. 1803), Remained in the hospitals on 19 Dec. 1799, Admitted into the hospitals during the whole period, Total under treatment in the hospitals during the whole period, Discharged from the hospitals during the whole period, Died in the hospitals during the whole period, and Remained in the hospitals on 1st Jan. 1803. Statement at the bottom – Proportion of mortality among the Europeans in Hospital nearly one in ten and for Africans, one in twenty two; and shows a total for Europeans invalided and sent to England.

		<p>3. "Observations" signed by Theo^d Gordon, M.D. Starts by discussing the periods selected as the most characteristic of the seasons in the West Indies as affecting the health of man; mentions Europeans, Creoles, strangers, all classes of white inhabitants, and troops; places the causes of disease in the West Indies under two categories – 1. natural (climate and local constitution of the atmosphere) and 2. "adventitious" (more under human control, most general and fatal to troops is new rum, associates increase in the problem to more pay in soldiers' hands); states the causes of mortality in West India regiments mainly due to pleurisy, dysentery and small pox and suggests ways the former two causes may be diminished among the "Africans"; indicates the healthy and sickly geographic locations for Europeans and Africans, and the best distribution of troops from a medical point of view; states Barbados has a superior degree of healthiness and recommends more troop use at.</p>
18	1805/1806	<p>"The FIFTH REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH; CONTAINING HEADS OF ENQUIRY FOR ASCERTAINING WHAT ARE HEALTHY STATIONS IN THE WEST INDIES. PRESENTED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH TO THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL, 4th SEPT. 1805." (Typescript, printed by William Bulmer and Co., Cleveland Row, St. James's, London, 7 pp.) In order for the Board of Health to procure information concerning healthy stations for West Indian troops, suggest the following steps be taken: send specific questions to each of the governors as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any place in a more elevated part of the island that is healthy and conveniently situated for building a barracks; 2. what experience have you of the healthiness of such a situation, 3. Has it ever been subject to the yellow fever or other disease, 4. What are the other advantages and disadvantages, besides health, as a quarter for troops <p>With this information, the governor is to determine stations and have an engineer survey the site to ascertain – height of station above sea level, acreage to include exercising ground and garden, quality of water, account of the soil, distance from seaport or landing place, materials available for building, and well situated militarily; also to include the expence of building a barracks; returns to be supplied by governor with the number of men at each station presently, and also number of deaths during the last three years, specifying each year; governor to send these to the secretary of state, adding relevant observations; state the plan would save the lives of soldiers and give greater security to the West India Islands; recommend fixing the number of men to a garrison, and barracks or stations be made sufficient to hold a complete battalion of 500 or 600 if the island required so many; reason - the discipline and health of the troops cannot be preserved in the West Indies if a regiment is broken into numerous and small detachments; in conformity to this plan, state the amount of garrisons each</p>

		island should have; explains Bahamas and the Bermudas have not been included “because in these islands the troops do not suffer from sickness.”
25	1806 May 12	Letter. Duplicate. Charles Cameron [governor of the Bahamas, 1804-20] to Right Honourable W. [William] Windham [secretary of state for war and the colonies, 5 Feb. 1806 -25 March 1807]. Dated at New Providence. Acknowledges receipt of circular letter of 5 March enclosing a copy of a letter from Sir Stephen Cotterell, and a letter and the printed regulations of the Board of Health.
27	1806 October 8	Letter. Duplicate. Charles Cameron to Right Honourable W. Windham. Dated at New Providence. Enclosing the medical reports of the state of health of the inhabitants of this colony, and a garrison. Enclosures Letter. Copy. 1806 Oct. 8. Reeves Fowler to Governor Cameron. Provides information as requested pertaining to the health situation of patients at the hospital at Hog Island – 44 patients, all with symptoms of yellow fever; cause – the variety of appearance produced by difference of constitution and habits; reason why no new cases in last six days – does not proceed from any reduction of the tendency of the air to produce the disease but from a deficiency of subject upon which to act. Letter. Copy. 1806 Oct. 9. W. Stephen to Governor Cameron. Provides information as requested pertaining to the patients under care at the garrison – last fortnight no case of yellow fever; most troops attacked either with intermittent fever or dysentery; predicts increased sickness due to weather (continual rains, etc.).
30	1807 January 7	Letter. Duplicate. Private. Charles Cameron to Right Honourable W. Windham. Dated at New Providence. Pertains to governing and troubling interactions with the House of Assembly; refers to the resolution in the House of 22 Nov., which was also published in the Gazette in terms to evince to members of the House and the public that he will not be dictated to; states the House had conducted themselves in an “indecorous manner” believing they only possess authority. Comments on enclosed documents: 1. Contains an insinuation with no foundation that the execution of the law alluded to had been neglected; 2. Contains a message sent by me in consequence of these transactions; 3. Resolutions of the House and a message to me in consequence; 4. Attorney general’s opinion on an Act of the legislature relative to the Turks Islands that was not completed; 5. Copy of a letter by committee of correspondence to Mr. Chalmers – arrogant pretensions within. Informs the 99 th [Regiment] continues to be very unhealthy – 12 men died since 13 th of last month and many sick; complaints are not infectious. Due to gales lost vessels <i>Nassau</i> and the <i>Viper</i> ; taken schooner <i>Mars</i> into service. Town not particularly healthy but quite free from infection. Enclosures

		<p>Speech to Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly. Copy. Signed C. Cameron. Pertains to the reaction by the House members to a resolution of the House of 26 Nov.</p> <p>Extract from the Minutes of the House of Assembly. 1806 Dec. 11. Opinion of the House on the resolution that laws relative to aliens should be strictly enforced, and licencing liquor retailers not allowed for subjects of countries to which at war.</p> <p>Speech to Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly. Signed Charles Cameron. Responds to resolutions in no. 1 – Considers the order of the House to the acting magistrate as an infringement upon the rights of the executive power and recommends the House reconsiders the resolutions and order.</p> <p>Extract from the Minutes of the House of Assembly. 1806 Dec. 19. Concerning subject matter in aforementioned enclosures – opinions of the committee and an answer to the governor’s message of yesterday concerning House resolutions of the 11th?</p> <p>Extract of a letter from the attorney general dated Nassau, 1806 Dec. 20. Signed W. Wylly. As requested, gives opinion on the bill for regulating the salt ponds at the Turks Island – complicated, and would result in endless litigation; and opinion on the powers given to the commissioners – consider them excessive and unnecessary.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Commissioners of Correspondence at New Providence to Mr. Chalmers, the colonial agent. 1807 Jan. 3. Signed by J. Webster, H. Wood, Alex. Young. James Dunshee, John Perpall?, Theo. G. Alexander, Burton/Benton Williams, Neil McQueen, Mich. Malcom, V. Mathews, Alex. Bain. In pursuance of the Order of the House of Assembly, transmit several House resolutions regarding Turks Islands and the Agency for the same; House opinion – agency is illegal and mischievous in its effects and ought to be recalled; request recalling the commission as agent of Turks Islands held by the Honourable Alexander Murray. Pertaining to Turks Islands salt ponds – bill was passed in consequence of a petition from the inhabitants, but the governor did not give assent; believe House of Assembly has every disposition to make such regulations tending to the benefit of the people. Concerning the governor’s speech in the Assembly, believe, if acted upon, would be subversive of the rights and privileges of the people and representatives when met in general assembly.</p>
50	1807 April 9	<p>Letter. Duplicate. Charles Cameron to Sir G. Shee. Dated at New Providence. States not able to give opinion on the effect of trade authorised by British government with St. Domingo as it is too soon. Hopes exportation of salt may be beneficial. Colony is in a state of internal tranquillity; garrison is now tolerably healthy, but approach of summer always creates alarm.</p>

54	1806 April 26	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 84. Lord Seaforth [governor of Barbados 1800-1806] to Right Honourable Wm: Windham. Dated at Pilgrim. Acknowledges receipt of letter no. 1 and circulars. Shares congratulations on the capture of the Cape of Good Hope; reports has only received the two first Reports of the Board of Health and received circular of 21 March relative to bounties on fish and will recommend to the legislature.</p>
57	1806 May 20	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 86. Lord Seaforth to Right Honourable Wm: Windham. Dated at Pilgrim. Acknowledges receipt of two circulars and letter no. 2. Circular of 6 April – responds have already sent orders to all custom houses on the subject. Circular of 15 April, sent questions to Dr. Ker/Kerr, chief of the military medical staff here, and to Dr. McArthur, chief physician to the naval hospital here, and two respectable island practitioners, and enclose reports. Wrote to chairman of the commercial society to inform of the state of health of the merchantmen crews (convoys). Will consult with the attorney and solicitor general on the subject of letter no. 2.</p> <p>Enclosures</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Charles Ker/Kerr J. H. & M. Dep. Windward and Leeward Colonies to Lord Seaforth, governor. 1806 May 20. Dated at Barbados. Acknowledges receipt of letter yesterday; answers to two queries – 1. Garrison of St. Anne’s is at present healthy and as to the shipping have no access to know the state of the health on board it; 2. Presently no infectious disorders of the fever in the garrison or general hospital; few sporadic cases of fever appeared among European troops and mostly from new recruits.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Dr. McArthur to Lord Seaforth. Dated at the Naval Hospital, Barbados. As requested, provides answers to two queries: 1. Not in private practice, but based on community visits, inhabitants of Bridge Town [Bridgetown] are and have been for some time very healthy; ships – recent months uncommonly healthy except for fevers on the ship <i>Dolphin</i> and schooner <i>Trinidad</i>, latter caused by want of free circulation of air in the lower parts of the vessel which was remedied, and former from intemperance and exposure to the sun; 2. Presently no contagious disorders in the colony or on board His Majesty’s vessels; prisoners of war, many lately from Europe – remarkably healthy, 13/700 in hospital wounded or with chronic disease.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Geo: Reed Jr., Chairman of the Commercial Society, to Right Honourable Lord Seaforth. 1806 May 21. Dated at Barbados. Based on Church Books, this year, funerals are few in proportion to the number of inhabitants – 23 seamen buried, 17 from the hospital and six otherwise, demonstrating island in general and the crews of merchantmen to be healthy; reasons for merchantmen health generally is their numbering is small so less subject to infectious diseases.</p>

		<p>Letter. Copy. R. Hamden to Right Honourable Lord Seaforth. 1806 May 21. Dated at Bridge Town [Bridgetown]. Sending answers to following questions: 1. Are the Island and Shipping, as far as you have access to know, healthy, or otherwise at present? and 2. Are there at present any prevailing infectious disorders, and if so, what are their nature and symptoms? Answers: 1. They are remarkably healthy; 2. Knows of no prevailing infectious disorders in the Island at present.</p>
70	1806 July 7	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 90. Lord Seaforth to Right Honourable W: Windham. Dated at Pilgrim. Enclosing vouchers for the hire of the schooner the <i>Gipsey</i>, and certificates of the health of the Island and shipping from Doctors Kerr (head of the military medical staff of this army) and McArthur (surgeon to the prisoners of war and naval hospital here), and from Mr. Hamden (practitioner). In reference to Mr. Hamden's mention of the small pox, the vessel is under strict quarantine and have asked for ship's surgeon to visit and report, and enclose his answer. Also enclose copy from Brig. General Hughes at Surinam of an account of the motions of William's Squadron. Pertaining to the Admiral's whereabouts – left this Bay on Wednesday last and since the enemy left Fort Royal conclude gone to Leeward to observe their motions.</p> <p>Enclosures</p> <p>Vouchers for the schooner <i>Gipsey</i>, dated 1806 July 7, to hire and transport dispatches to England from merchants residing in Bridgetown – Rob. Hyndman and John Gordon - for amount of 1000 pounds.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Charles Ker/Kerr, J: H. M. Dep. to Lord Seaforth. 1806 July 5. Dated at Barbados. Answer to circular, garrison of this island at present is healthy with no infectious diseases of a febrile nature prevailing.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Dr. McArthur to Lord Seaforth. 1806 July 4. Dated at Naval Hospital Barbados. As requested, answers to query - as far as known, island is very healthy and the squadron of His Majesty's ships on this station as well as the prisoners of war enjoy a greater degree of health than at any period since my arrival.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Ren Hamden to Lord Seaforth. 1806 July 6. Dated at Bridge Town [Bridgetown]. Answers to queries: 1. Very healthy; 2. Knows of no prevailing infectious disorder at present in the island but several "negroes" infected with small pox on vessel anchored at Carlisle Bay having come from Africa; distinct in nature – unattended with anomalous symptoms.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Captain W.? Parkinson to Lord Seaforth. 1806 July 4. Dated on sloop <i>Merlin</i>, Carlisle Bay, Barbados. Responds as requested – report from the surgeon of His Majesty's sloop under my command on board the <i>Lord</i></p>

		<p><i>Nelson</i> slave ship reports there are now 15 “slaves” ill with the natural small pox in a favourable way of recovery.</p> <p>Letter. Copy. Wm: Donovan, Master (officer in the British Navy), to the Officer Commanding His Majesty’s Ships, Surinam. 1806 June 21. Dated at Cayenne. Relative to a French Squadron which had left Brest last Dec. and sailed from this Port on the 10th of June, provides brief information on the route of the squadron since leaving Brest, France, beginning with their capture of Donovan en route to the Cape of Good Hope on 17 Feb., and ending with the French landing Donovan here on the 20th of April; French squadron was commanded by Commodore Jerome Bounaparte [Bonaparte, who took part in the French campaign of 1806]; hopes this information helps to intercept. Expects to sail from this “miserable place” by the 1st of July in a cartel with 50 seamen; shows concern for being taken en route.</p>
88	1806 October 3	<p>Letter. Duplicate. John Spooner [president of the Council of Barbados] to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Barbados. Acknowledges receipt of letter enclosing council orders restricting the importation of “slaves”, and circular accompanied with two reports from the Board of Health. Based on knowledge and general opinion, St. Ann’s/St. Anne’s Barracks are as healthy a spot as any in the island. “Calamity” befallen island of Dominique [presently Haiti] has no disagreeable effect here.</p>
91	1807 January 12	<p>Letter. Duplicate. John Spooner [president of the Council of Barbados] to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Barbados. Acknowledges receipt of letter no. 1 testifying your approval of the Bill passed in the legislature for the better support of the dignity of the government, and letter from the secretary of the Treasury to Sir Geo. Shee [under-secretary of state for war and the colonies, 1806-7] respecting collectors and other officers of the Revenue for bonds to be taken from them on their appointments; reports executive government of the island is tranquil and inhabitants and garrison are very healthy, but the very great scarcity of provisions makes us anxiously await the arrival of the Cork fleet and renders the temporary encouragement of Americans necessary.</p> <p>Enclosure</p> <p>Certificate of the Rate of Exchange for the month of November. Duplicate. Certified by resident merchants, Francis Dixon, Wm Foderingham? and John Humpleby.</p>
96	1807 June 25	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 2. John Spooner to Lord Viscount Castlereagh [secretary of state for war and the colonies, 1807-1809]. Dated at Barbados. Reports the island is in a “very flourishing state of cultivation” and expect a</p>

		<p>large crop. Executive part of the government is tranquil and the troops are healthy under the command of Gen. Bowyer.</p> <p>Enclosure</p> <p>Certificate of the Rate of Exchange for the months of March, April and May 1807. 1807 May 15. Certified by merchants John Humpleby, Francis Dixon, and B. Hygmon?.</p>
102	1806 December 10	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 9. J. [John] Hodgson [governor of Bermuda, 1806-1810] to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at St. Georges, Bermudas. Acknowledges receipt of 4th and 5th Reports of the Board of Health on the means of preserving health in the colonies and will send required information as soon as possible. States did not receive circular letter of 5th of March and may be missing due to “chasm” between the secretary of state and this government; thus many letters may be missing.</p> <p>Enclosure</p> <p>Note showing there have been many months and corresponding years for which there have been no letters received from the secretary of state, 1803-1806.</p>
107	1806 December 28	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 14. J. [John] Hodgson to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at St. Georges, Bermuda. As requested, provides answers of the principal medical men to queries suggested by the Board of Health; comments on disadvantages to suggestions made in their reports pertaining to a healthy location for a barracks; encloses remarks of the surveyor general of the lands, a Return of deaths for the 99th Regiment since 29th of June. Requests purchase of land at the rear of barracks for drill and exercise of 250 men and a small barrack for officers who are now distributed in town, provides reasons for request; indicates there are no funds in the islands to contribute for an additional barracks.</p> <p>Enclosures</p> <p>A Return of the Number of men of the 99th Regiment that have Died between the 29th June and 28th December 1806. Signed by J. Hodgson, Brig. General. Only provides one number as a total – 29.</p> <p>Remarks of the Surveyor General of Lands Samuel Trott. Duplicate. 1807 Jan. 24. Pertains to the proper place for erecting a barrack in relation to health. Following points are made: height of the present barrack above sea level; good lands adjoining barracks which could be purchased; spring water in vicinity is good; soil is clay and</p>

good; barracks is within the limits of the town of St. George - a sea port, landing place with good roads; hill barracks best from a military point of view to protect government; health equal to any. Final thoughts – if more barracks are to be erected, more cost efficient to add another level to present one.

Doctor Fra. Forbes' answers to the queries suggested by the Board of Health which were: 1. Is there an elevated part of the island that is healthy and conveniently situated for erecting a barracks for a battalion of 500 or 600 men; 2. What experience have you of the healthiness of such a situation and your recommendations; 3. Has it ever been subject to the yellow fever or other disease; 4. Beside healthiness, what are the advantages/disadvantages of it as a quarter for troops. Answers include: 1. Mentions a few places which could be considered healthy locations, one being Signal Hill; 2. As a resident of more than 30 years in St. George's and its vicinity, consider it very healthy, and provides reasons for recommendation of the place near Signal Hill – elevated, "salubrious air" and convenient situation; 3. Few instances of yellow fever and generally ascribed to foreign import, and no diseases peculiar to these islands which are celebrated as very temperate and extremely healthy; 4. Advantages – well adapted for keeping troops in quarters, not too near the town, contiguous to St. George's harbour which affords a variety of animal and vegetable nutriment; disadvantages – want of good spring water making for a dependence on tanks.

Dr. Hutchinson's answers to the queries suggested by the Board of Health to John Hodgson, governor, commander-in-chief. Duplicate. 1806 Dec. 6. Dated at St. George's, Bermuda. Answers to questions: 1. Place most eligible for erecting barracks is land belonging to the President which extends down to the sea; 2. Neighbourhood is airy and healthy, not exposed to the influence of marshes or ponds the exhalations from which might prove detrimental to health; 3. Yellow fever has during residence in the last 26 years only appeared twice – 1795 only a few cases and 1796 became general and prevailed for six months; 4. Advantages to answer no. 1 are numerous – quarries with excellent building stones, good probably of water with a well, roads to the barracks easily made, soil is capable of producing vegetables.

Thomas Duncan, surgeon, 99th Regiment, answers to queries suggested by the Board of Health. 1806 Dec. 7. Dated at St. George's. Answers to queries: 1. Present barracks is very good and healthy and anywhere on Barrack hill, mentions a couple of other places; 2. Barrack hill is elevated and possesses all the advantages of a free circulation of air including being surrounded by the sea and bays; 3. Only known instances of Yellow fever appeared Sept., Oct., and Nov. 1795 but not sure of source; prisoners of war, some foreigners and inhabitants of St. George's died; 1796 introduced in the west by a French prize vessel from the West Indies – bedding and clothes thrown overboard were picked up and used by inhabitants which spread the disease all over the island; Sept. appeared at St. George's and was fatal until Dec.; mentions 99th brought dysentery from Europe but did

		not spread to inhabitants; <i>Arethusa</i> frigate commanded by Captain Brisbane arrived here 15 July from Jamaica with crew and captain sick from fever which spread to the community and the 99 th after the captain lodged in St. George's; sources of epidemic traced to West Indies and comments it was the most highly contagious disease in his experience – out of 400 troops of the 99 th , 302 were attacked plus women and children of the regiment in the space of eight weeks and resembled typhus; concludes that Bermuda's situation far from Europe and the West Indies and its small commerce accounts for less incidence than "any other place in the world"; 4. Inconvenience of Bermuda as a quarter for troops arises from its scarcity of productions in proportion to the number of inhabitants, which could be obviated by encouraging production of vegetables which with fish would support the health of the troops; little danger from occasional introduction of contagious diseases; Bermuda is a good situation for Europeans "whose health and strength is much impaired by a long residence in warm climates."
133	1806 April 30	Letter. Duplicate. No. 24. Geo. Metcalfe, President [of Council], to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Dominica. Acknowledges receipt of circular relating to the Board of Health and will promote the suggestions therein.
135	1806 May 25	Letter. Duplicate. No. 28. Geo. Metcalfe to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Dominica. Acknowledges receipt of circular enclosing copy of letter from the council office at Whitehall to Sir George Shee on the subject of infectious disorders; reports no infectious disease has appeared in this colony and that the inhabitants, garrison and the seamen in the merchant shipping are healthy.
137	1807 January 29	Letter. Duplicate. No. 45. George Metcalfe to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Dominica. Pertains to queries received in circular of 21 st of August; general introductory note – inhabitants not much acquainted with the interior and the military do not encourage remote, mountain barracks; Answers: 1. One option for healthy place - Morne Avocat crown land, an extension of the garrison of Morne Bruce – more distant from the sea and higher than Morne Bruce, with spring water, and more healthy place than Morne Bruce against the yellow fever; another option even more eligible is at Prince Ruperts Head – good pasture land, spring water, ground good for parade of 1000 men, lots of wood, within reach of cannon from the fort and troops 30 minutes away from garrison, land elevated with constant mountain breeze which is proved to be perfectly healthy and would operate against the effects of the yellow fever; mentions a third option in the centre of the colony dubbed the runaway camp, best for yellow fever but too distant from the garrison for security purposes, with 100 acres cleared and planted by "runaways" with a lot of huts which could be taken possession of, detachment of troops normally visits there once a year.
142	1806 April 23	Letter. Duplicate. No. 6. Fred. Maitland, [lieutenant governor of Grenada, 29 March 1805-1811], to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Grenada. Acknowledges receipt of circular of 5 March with enclosures and will pay attention to communications from the Board of Health but have not heard from then directly.

		Colony at times suffered severely by very acute disorders and violent fevers, more especially in 1793 when a great part of the inhabitants died; cause not found.
144	1806 May 29	Letter. Duplicate. No. 20. Fred. Maitland, [lieutenant governor], to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Grenada. Acknowledges receipt of circular of 15 April and will provide information as requested on the state of health of the crews on board the ships of each convoy. Convoy left here on the 3 rd which contained 61 vessels being the trade of Surinam, Demerary & Berbice, Barbados, St. Vincent and this island, and believe no sickness prevalent; a few invalids always among the passengers and in general these are the only cases of “debilitated constitutions”; ships here ready to go are free from any sickness but will prepare a report.
146	1806 June 19	Letter. Duplicate. No. 23. Fred. Maitland, [lieutenant governor], to Right Honourable W. Windham. Dated at Grenada. After enquiries, reports that on the ships here and getting ready to join the convoy (ships from Grenada, St. Lucia and Tobago) there is no sickness.
148	1806 December 7	Letter. Duplicate. No. 69. Fred. Maitland, [lieutenant governor], to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Grenada. Transmits report asked for by letter of 21 August in which was sent the 4 th and 5 th Reports of the Board of Health.
149	1807 May 2	Letter. Duplicate. No. 91. Frederick Maitland [lieutenant governor of Grenada, 29 March 1805-1811] to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Grenada. Transmits Report from Dr. Dickinson, the garrison surgeon, relative to the state of health of the sailors of the merchant ships which left this harbour on the 20 th of April under convoy of H. M. S. <i>Venus</i> numbering 83 vessels from Grenada, Surinam, Demerary, St. Vincent, Tobago, and Berbice. Enclosure Dr. Dickinson’s, garrison surgeon, answers to queries suggested by the Board of Health. 1807 April 30. Dated at Grenada. Convoy departed 20 th in good state of health; no cases of disease amongst the shipping except a few invalids who embarked with the 2 nd Battalion of the 60 th Regiment; Grenada trade continues free of sickness except the master and mate of the ship <i>Lady Anne</i> who died at La Baye, the first an exhausted invalid and the other imprudently exposed himself to the cause of the disease; ships assembled from other colonies to join convoy were also healthy on arrival here and reported to have been so during their time here except one passenger died on a Demerara ship from dropsy; colony is in a good state of health including prisoners of war and in the garrison.
155	1806 August 2	Letter. Duplicate. No. 48. Sir Eyre Coote, [governor of Jamaica, 1806-1808], to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Kings House, Jamaica. Reports from sources – customs and health officers - no epidemic or infectious disorder has appeared in any of the homeward bound ships assembled at Port Antonio on the 21s of July under protection of H. M. S. <i>Success</i> .

159	1806 May 3	Letter. Duplicate. No. 2. [Lord] Lavington [born Ralph Paine, governor of the Leeward Islands, 1799-1807] to Right Honourable William Windham, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State. Dated at Antigua. Acknowledges receipt of letters and circulars, one having an enclosure from the Board of Health. As requested, have requested of the Presidents of the islands to furnish returns of the members of their councils specifying those absent and when. Shall communicate contents of 1 st and 2 nd Reports of the Board of Health to appropriate persons but suggests it would be better if could be supplied with more copies. Glad distresses under which the British sugar colonies from the want of a less restrained intercourse with the United States are being considered by His Majesty's ministers, and will communicate to legislature the proposals contained in your circular of the 21 st of March.
163	1806 June 1	Letter. Duplicate. No. 5. [Lord] Lavington to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Antigua. Acknowledges receipt of letter of April 6 th enclosing the king's order in council for laying a general embargo upon all Prussian ships within the limits of Great Britain; also receipt of despatch of the 15 th enclosing copy of letter to Sir George Shee by the clerk of the council on the subject of information required to be transmitted by the governors of the colonies prior to the departure of the ships of the season for England as to the appearance of any infectious disease. Can assure there is not presently any appearance of the prevalence of any infectious disease in the islands. 70 th Regiment a few months ago suffered under a common colonial fever which killed many but no appearance of infection; the deaths were attributed to the want of sound and efficacious medicines; this want being supplied from the magazine of the colonial practitioners, regiment soon re-established in its health; of the 18 now in hospital, 304 forming the whole battalion, none of them dangerously ill and most nearly convalescent. Expects soon to transmit the resolutions of the islands of Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher and Tortola on the proposals contained in circular of 21 st of March, as well as a state of the respective councils as requested in despatch no. 1.
168	1806 June 7	Letter. Duplicate. No. 7. Geo. Beckwith to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at St. Vincent. Encloses medical certificate of the health of the homeward bound fleet from this colony expected to sail tomorrow. Enclosure Medical certificate from G. R. Baillie, garrison surgeon; Alexr: Menzies, surgeon 90 th Regiment; Alex: Melville, M.D. and ordnance surgeon; Alex. Melville, [?] and hospital mate. Dated 1806 June 6 at Saint/St. Vincent. Upon examining the state of health of the fleet which is to sail from this colony on the 8 th , reports there is no appearance of any contagious disease and that they are at present very healthy.
172	1807 April 15	Letter. Duplicate. No. 47. Geo. Beckwith to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at St. Vincent. Encloses medical certificate of the health of the homeward bound fleet from this colony expected to sail 17 th .

		<p>Enclosure</p> <p>Medical certificate from G. R. Baillie, garrison surgeon, and Alex. Menzies, surgeon 90th Regiment. Dated 1807 April 12 at St. Vincent. Present state of health of the fleet which is to sail for Europe on the 13th is there has been no appearance of any contagious disease and presently very healthy.</p>
175	1806 December 18	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 17. W. Carlyon Hughes [lieutenant governor of Suriname, South America, 15 April 1805-27 Sept. 1808] to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Surinam [Suriname]. Transmits information for the Board of Health.</p> <p>Enclosures</p> <p>Answers to the queries suggested by the Board of Health pertaining to ascertaining what are healthy situations in the colony. Signed by Lt. Gov. Hughes. Dated 1806 Dec. 18. Answers to queries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town of Paramaribo most elevated and best adapted for erecting a barracks, 18-20 miles from the sea; troops now in garrison at Fort Zelandia occupy barrack that contains about 400 men, very airy and in the best possible position, additional barracks could be erected there. General Hospital for 150-200 sick is less airy and within the town but otherwise convenient. Fortress New Amsterdam, 8 miles nearer the sea, is the chief post for defence with barracks for 700-800 men, situated low and wet and air confined but on the whole far less unhealthy than might expect; want of a hospital for the immediate reception of those taken ill on this spot is severely felt as the sick must now be transported to the general hospital at Paramaribo; mentions other sites too remote defensively and for supplies, but extremely healthy 2. Refers to the letter from the head of the medical department, M. Muttlebury 3. See no. 2. 4. Paramaribo is the best position for quartering the troops – it's a town producing produce and commerce, close to Saramacca River and Fort Amsterdam, no want of water; Fort Amsterdam is sole place of arms against an invading enemy but like the stations on the coast it labours under the great disadvantage of want of water. Describes coastal landscape; interior proven to Europeans far more unhealthful than the coast which is mostly defended by a colonial corps; the only enemy to be apprehended in this quarter being the different tribes of "Indians" and "Free Negroes"; addition of two black companies to each European regiment as suggested by the Board of Health would, in the opinion of every unprejudiced and experienced military man accustomed to tropical climate, secure the health of the white soldier much fatigued, and have more solid advantages to the colonies than the separate establishment of black corps will ever be able to effect.

		<p>Letter. Copy. J. [James] Muttlebury, Deputy Inspector of Hospitals & Inspector of Health for the Post/Port of Surinam [Suriname], to Brig. General Hughes, Lt. Governor & Commanding His Majesty's Forces in the Colony of Surinam/Suriname. Dated 1806 Dec. 16 at Paramaribo. Landscape is levelled forest intersected by large rivers/creeks, and the coast includes sand banks which form healthy positions, and when situated on the sea coast are very pleasant; names several of these places which are exempt from disease but would not allow for buildings of 500 or 600 men and too distant from supplies. Describes landscape around the two most important military positions, Fort Amsterdam, at the confluence of the rivers Surinam and Commewyne [Commewijne], and Fort Zelandia near Paramaribo. Fort Amsterdam land is low, wet and swampy and very productive of disease; not enough local knowledge to add more. Fort Zelandia stands on sand bank a bit elevated from surroundings and on the whole is the most healthy position for a large body of troops; troops have had diseases viz. fevers of the remitting and intermitting type, with dysentery and now and then, though rarely, the yellow fever; much depends on the seasons and more on the conduct of the men as they can fairly easily obtain rum, and as they are exposed to the sun, etc. so will they be more or less liable to disease of every species.</p> <p>Enclosure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Return of European and Black Troops who have died in the Colony of Surinam from the 1st January 1805 to the 31st December 1807 being a period of two years. Copy. Signed J. Mattlebury, Deputy Inspector of Hospitals. Table format with data separately for Europeans and Black troops: No. of Officers (one total for both groups - 14), No. of Non-commissioned Officers & Privates (Europeans 252, "Blacks" 34) and Average Strength of the Garrison (one total for both groups – 1875).
190	1806 July 22	Letter. Duplicate. No. 18. Governor Hislop [of Trinidad] to Right Honourable William Windham, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State. Dated at Trinidad. Transmits herewith the Report of the first medical authorities respecting the state of the health which prevails on board the homeward bound ships from this island and sailing today for the place of general rendezvous at Tortola. [Not included.]
192	1806 October 7	Letter. Quadruplicate. No. 25. Governor Hislop to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Trinidad. Acknowledges receipt of circular of the 21 st August enclosing Reports of the Board of Health on the means of preserving health in the colonies and asking for information. Perfect tranquillity and good order prevails in government and with respect to its military state.
194	1807 January 16	Letter. Duplicate. No. 34. Governor Hislop to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Trinidad. Transmits herewith Reports required by the Board of Health.
		Enclosures

Answers to queries contained in the fifth Report of the Board of Health from Andrew Clarke, surgeon; James Met[iver?], garrison surgeon; and Matthew Smith, surgeon, to Brigadier General Hislop, Governor and Commanding His Majesty's Forces, Trinidad. Dated 1806 Nov. 8 at Trinidad. Answers: 1. Acquainted with Fort George and St. Josephs being convenient situations for a barracks, may be others but uncultivated state makes it difficult to define; 2. Difficult to answer in relation to Fort George as only recently occupied but its elevation unconnected with marsh lands are factors for healthy situation; as for St. Joseph, convalescents use it for a change of air as a healthy situation, so recommended; 3. Neither forts have been subjected to yellow fever; this area has been subject to intermittent fever which disappears as soon as in cultivation; 4. Advantages of Fort George – above sea level (approx. 1000 feet), distant from marshy ground, cool air, water from stream, no stagnating water, town distance renders access of ardent spirits difficult so healthier for troops; St. Joseph – except in elevation, has same advantages, but disadvantages by its closeness to town and ease of access to spirits.

Answers to queries contained in the fifth Report of the Board of Health from John Hassard, Capt. Royal [?] Com., to Brig. General Hislop. Dated 1806 Dec. 20 at Trinidad. Queries and answers: 1. Height of the station above sea level? Answer - Situation best adapted for barracks at Fort George are to the westward of Queens Redoubt and the Kings Lines both 1000 feet or more above sea level; 2. To determine the number of acres of ground that could be procured to afford exercising ground and gardens for men. Answer – westward of Queens Redoubt is more than one acre for barracks for 600 men; also suggests an area in the Kings Lines once hill is removed (in progress) with four acres and roads for a barracks with a good exercising ground, and the side of the hill in the rear of the officers barracks will provide a good garden with proximity to water; 3. To examine the water. Answer – Fort George has 2 of the best springs on island; 4. To give some account of the soil. Answer – composed of coarse gravel mixed with loam on a rocky bottom, surface is covered with black mould; 5. Ascertain distance from nearest sea port or landing place also the kind of roads if any. Answer – Fort George is nearly six miles from Port of Spain by road with a good landing place; 6. To learn whether the station or vicinity furnish any materials for building, and opinion of the station in a military point of view. Answer – lots of wood and stone for building and making lime; suggests equally cheap to make buildings of masonry instead of American lumber; military point of view – excellent situation for repelling a foreign enemy; consists of several ridges which may consider as abutments of one common hill, and so situated that they afford each other fine natural flanks; inaccessible to the westward and quite secure in the rear having a pass where six men could oppose 100; supply of water rising at a height from whence it can be conveyed to every part of the post; at its foot is a fine bay with excellent anchorage close inshore; if the extreme points of this bay were occupied with

		strong works and a tower established in a proper situation it would become a most commodious harbour and most effectually secure commerce.
204	1807 April 15	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 43. Hislop to Right Honourable William Windham. Dated at Trinidad. Transmitting report required by the Board of Health as requested in dispatch of 1806 Aug. 21.</p> <p>Enclosure – Doc. No. 202</p> <p>Report on the state of health and nature of the disease which prevails by Alex. Williams, M. D. & Inspector of Health; and Andrew Clarke, Practitioner in Medicine & Surgery. 1807. Report for the present and some weeks past, more sickness in the colony than is usual at this season; predominant disease is fever which believe is not of an infectious nature; symptoms – generally attended with violent symptoms and for some from northern countries, fatal; typical West Indian fever, except believe the aggravation of the symptoms due to concurrence of circumstances such as the excessive dryness and heat of the weather, with sudden and great transitions in the temperature of the atmosphere from the north winds common in these months, which favour the action of those causes (marsh miasmata) whence this fever arises.</p>
206	1807 July 6	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 6. Gov. Hislop to Lord Viscount Castlereagh [secretary of state for war and the colonies, 1807-1809]. Dated at Trinidad. Transmitting herewith the report required by the Board of Health as requested.</p> <p>Enclosure</p> <p>Report on the state of health of the colony by Alex. Williams, M. D. Inspector of Health; And: Clarke, Practitioner of Medicine & Surgery. 1807 July 8 at Trinidad. Report the health of the colony is much the same as it was since last report in June and the few diseases which occur are free from infection and are common for this season.</p>
210	1807 October 20	<p>Letter. Duplicate. No. 18. Gov. Hislop to Lord Viscount Castlereagh. Dated at Trinidad. Transmitting herewith the report required by the Board of Health as requested.</p> <p>Enclosure</p> <p>Report of the state of health of the colony by Alex. Williams, M. D. Inspector of Health; And: Clarke, Practitioner of Medicine. Dated 1807 Oct. 23 at Port of Spain. Report the colony is at present remarkably healthy.</p>